REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. In response, claims 1, 4, 6-7, 10, 12-13, 16, 18-19, 22 and 24 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are improper at least for the reasons set forth below.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,261,041. Applicant believes that this rejection is improper.

Of the pending claims at issue, claims 1, 6-7, 12-13, 18-19 and 24 are independent claims. Independent claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. One of the sensing area and the transmission area is wider than the other of the sensing area and the transmission area. Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and thus, as a matter of law, incorporate each of the features of claim 1.

Claim 6 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area, a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area and determination means for determining whether the one or more sensed objects are within the sensing area and for determining whether the one or more receiving objects are within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server.

Claim 7 recites an information processing method for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing method comprises the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. One of the sensing area and the transmission area is wider than the other of the sensing area and the transmission area. Claim 11 depends from claim 7 and thus, as a matter of law, incorporate each of the features of claim 7.

Claim 12 recites an information processing method for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing method comprises the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area, setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area and determining whether the one or more sensed objects are within the sensing area, and whether the one or more receiving objects are within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server.

Claim 13 recites a computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The program to carry out processing includes the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. One of the sensing area and the transmission area is wider than the other of the sensing area and the transmission area. Claim 17 depends from claim 13 and thus, as a matter of law, incorporate each of the features of claim 13.

Claim 18 recites a computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on

objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The program to carry out processing includes the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area, setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area and determining whether the one or more sensed objects are within the sensing area, and whether the one or more receiving objects are within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server.

Claim 19 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related to a transmission area. The sensing area is used for the sensing object to sense the information related to the one or more sensed objects within the sensing area. The transmission area is used for the transmitting object to transmit the information related to the transmitting object to the one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. The information processing apparatus also comprises a processor, coupled to the storage element. The processor is configured to selectively set the sensing area and the transmission area such that one of the sensing area and the transmission area is wider than the other of the sensing area and the transmission area. Claim 23 depends from claim 19 and thus, as a matter of law, incorporate each of the features of claim 19.

Claim 24 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related to a transmission area. The sensing area is used for the sensing object to sense the information related to the one or more sensed objects within the sensing area. The transmission area is used for the transmitting object to transmit the information related to the transmitting object to the one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and

transmitting object is associated with a server. The information processing apparatus also comprises a processor, coupled to the storage element, the processor configured to selectively set the sensing area and the transmission area. The processor is further configured to determine whether the one or more sensed objects are within the sensing area, and to determine whether the one or more receiving objects are within the transmission area.

As previously discussed, independent claims 1, 6-7, 12-13, 18-19 and 24 have been amended. As amended, these claims further recite, in part, wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. Thus, the sensing object and transmitting object are associated with a server for communication applications of the sensing object and the transmitting object in a local area network. The amendments as discussed above are supported in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 1-6 and Figure 1.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Applicant believes that *Susman* at least fails to disclose or suggest a sensing object and transmitting object wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. *Susman* discloses a computer system and method for the generation and manipulation of animated objects in a computer-controlled environment. See, *Susman*, Abstract, and column 4, lines 60-69. The primary focus of *Susman* is on interactions of the animated objects as an animation sequence progresses. *Id.* *Susman* is not concerned with servers and local area networks because the entire animation takes place within a single computer system. See, *Susman*, Figure 1. In fact nowhere does *Susman* disclose or suggest a sensing object and transmitting object wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server as required by the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that *Susman* fails to render the claimed invention obvious based on at least these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection with respect to claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19 and 23-24 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,261,041 ("*Susman*"). The Patent Office alleges that *Susman* discloses each feature of the claimed subject matter as defined in claims 4, 10, 16 and 22.

Of the pending claims at issue, claims 14, 10, 16 and 22 are independent claims. Independent claim 4 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to send information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. The transmitting object is the sensing object.

Claim 10 recites an information processing method for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing method comprises the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. The transmitting object is the sensing object.

Claim 16 recites a computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The program to carry out processing includes the steps of setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within the sensing area and setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. The transmitting object is the sensing object.

Claim 22 recites an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related

to a transmission area. The sensing area is used for the sensing object to sense the information related to the one or more sensed objects within the sensing area. The transmission area is used for the transmitting object to transmit the information related to the transmitting object to the one or more receiving objects within the transmission area. At least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. The information processing apparatus also comprises a processor, coupled to the storage element, the processor configured to selectively set the sensing area and the transmission area. The transmitting object is the sensing object.

As previously discussed, independent claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 have been amended. As amended, these claims further recite, in part, wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. Thus, the sensing object and transmitting object are associated with a server for communication applications of the sensing object and the transmitting object in a local area network. The amendments as discussed above are supported in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 1-6 and Figure 1.

Applicants believe that the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited art. Based on at least the reasons discussed above, *Susman* is deficient with respect to the claimed invention. *Susman* fails to disclose or suggest a sensing object and transmitting object wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server. Instead, *Susman* discloses a computer system and method for the generation and manipulation of animated objects in a computer-controlled environment whereby the entire animation takes place within a single computer system.. See, *Susman*, Abstract, and column 4, lines 60-69 and Figure 1. Consequently, *Susman* does not disclose or suggest a sensing object and transmitting object wherein at least one of the sensing object and transmitting object is associated with a server as required by the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that *Susman* fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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